



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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November 12, 2019

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
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From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Chief Executive Officer

FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH (ITEM NO. 15, AGENDA OF AUGUST 13, 2019)

On August 13, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to work with the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to identify local public housing authorities (PHAs) eligible to apply for the Tenant Protection Vouchers for Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative, new housing vouchers made available by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Board directed the above departments/agencies to offer technical assistance to the PHAs willing to apply for, and operate the new housing vouchers and to report back to the Board in 90-days. The Motion also directed DCFS to sign MOUs necessary for PHAs to apply.

The CEO, LACDA, DCFS and LAHSA have been working in partnership to engage and support interested PHAs over the past several months. This serves as an interim response on the efforts directed above.

FYI Voucher Overview

On July 26, 2019, HUD released Public and Indian Housing Notice 2019-20 (HA) offering the opportunity for local PHAs who currently administer Housing Choice Vouchers, but do not currently administer Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, to apply for up to 25 vouchers per year, targeted for youth with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement. This is an open-ended funding opportunity while funding remains available.

Unfortunately, this opportunity excluded both LACDA and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), as both PHAs currently administer the FUP. However, the following PHAs are eligible to receive the new FYI Initiative Tenant Protection Vouchers: Baldwin Park, Burbank, Compton, Culver City, Glendale, Hawaiian Gardens, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Long Beach, Norwalk, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, South Gate and Torrance.

Eligible PHAs must also have a partnership with the Public Child Welfare Agency who, either independently or in partnership with the Continuum of Care, is committed to providing supportive services for participating youth for a period of 36 months.

Outreach to Eligible PHA's

In partnership, the CEO, DCFS and LACDA made the following efforts to engage the eligible PHAs:

- LACDA shared details of the HUD opportunity via e-mail to all eligible PHAs on August 16, 2019 and requested that interested PHAs reply as LACDA would be convening a meeting to discuss the opportunity.
- LACDA sent a follow up email to all eligible PHAs on August 22, 2019.
- DCFS sent an email to all eligible PHAs encouraging partnership and participation on August 22, 2019.
- Homeless Initiative staff engaged city contacts to request they reach out to their respective PHAs to encourage participation in this opportunity, which is aligned with the County's Homeless Grant Funding Opportunity, Priority Area 1 – increase opportunities for interim and permanent housing.

Technical Assistance made available to eligible PHAs

LACDA, in partnership with the CEO, DCFS, and LAHSA, hosted a meeting for all PHAs on September 30, 2019. PHAs who attended were from the cities of Pasadena, Compton, Torrance, Pomona, Norwalk, Redondo Beach, and Inglewood. The meeting was also attended by HUD's Los Angeles Office of Public Housing Regional Director, who commended LACDA and the County on taking a leadership role in engaging and supporting PHAs in pursuing this opportunity. Technical support was made available to all PHAs by LACDA, DCFS, and LAHSA, which included:

- Assistance with the development of the inter-jurisdictional agreements to facilitate the use of FYI Initiative vouchers.
- A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template with DCFS.

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- Data on the local need including Homeless Management Information System and Youth Count data.
- A referral process in partnership with the PHA, its local Youth Coordinated Entry System Lead Agency, and DCFS to identify participants as effectively and efficiently as possible (based on the PHA's jurisdiction and level of need).
- A streamlined process for verifying participant eligibility through DCFS.
- Forms and other materials supporting the referral and verification processes.
- Best practices for administering an FUP.

PHAs opting to participate in the FYI Voucher Opportunity

To date, only the PHA from the City of Norwalk has opted to participate in the FYI Voucher Opportunity and this item is scheduled to be considered by its Commission on November 19, 2019. In the interim, the Norwalk PHA is currently working on an Interagency Agreement with LACDA and an MOU with DCFS.

LACDA has provided additional technical assistance to the PHA from the City of Torrance; however, their decision to proceed is still pending. We will continue efforts to engage other PHAs around this opportunity and work to overcome any barriers to participation identified by PHAs. Unless otherwise directed, the CEO will return to the Board with a status report on the Board's directives by the end of February 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Ansell, Homeless Initiative Director, at (213) 974-1752 or by email at pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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JR:LC:tv

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Los Angeles Community Development Authority
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority